

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 FEA-01 ERDA-05 AID-05 CEA-01

CIAE-00 CIEP-01 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07 FPC-01 H-02

INR-07 INT-05 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-04

USIA-06 SAM-01 OES-06 SP-02 SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3082

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION MTN GENEVA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION OECD PARIS

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, DA

SUBJECT: INTROUDCTION OF NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS POSTPONED

REF: (A) COPENHAGEN 1721, (B) COPENHAGEN 2392

1. THE DANISH GOVERNMENT HAS DECIDED NOT RPT NOT TO PUSH FOR
PASSAGE OF THE SO-CALLED ENFORCEMENT ACT IN A SPECIAL SESSION OF
THE FOLKETING IN SEPTEMBER (SEE REF A). PASSAGE WOULD HAVE PUT THE
NUCLEAR POWER SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENT ACT INTO FORCE, ENABLING
POWER INDUSTRIES TO GO AHEAD WITH NUCLEAR PROGRAMS. THE DECISION
NOT TO PUSH THE ENFORCEMENT ACT POSTPONES THE INTRODUCTION OF
NUCLEAR POWER IN DENMARK FOR AN UNDETERMINED PERIOD.

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2. THE GOVERNMENT'S DECISION IS MOTIVATED BY SEVERAL FACTORS. WHILE PRESUMABLY STILL A MINORITY, THE OPPONENTS TO NUCLEAR POWER HAVE BEEN ACTIVELY CAMPAIGNING AND HAVE SUCCESSFULLY PENETRATED THE RANKS OF THE GOVERNING SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY. THE GOVERNMENT AND THE MAJORITY OF THE PARTY ARE STILL CONVINCED THAT NUCLEAR POWER ULTIMATELY WILL BE NECESSARY ALTERNATIVE ENERGY SOURCE FOR DENMARK, BUT THE GROWING UNREST IN THE PARTY, AND APPARENTLY IN THE GENERAL PUBLIC, RAISED THE DANGER OF ADDING A DIVISIVE ISSUE TO THE ALREADY CONTENTIOUS ECONOMIC ISSUES (SEE REF B).

3. THE GOVERNMENT'S AIM IS TO COMPLETE NEGOTIATIONS ON A COMBINED FISCAL, MONETARY AND INCOMES POLICY PROGRAM LEADING TO STRENGTHENED LEGISLATION THIS MONTH OR EARLY SEPTEMBER. NEGOTIATIONS ARE STILL UNSETTLED, HOWEVER, AND COULD RESULT IN NATIONAL ELECTIONS THIS FALL. A CONCOMITANT PARLIAMENTARY CONFRONTATION OVER NUCLEAR POWER, WITH PROBABILITIES OF A PUBLIC REFERENDUM ON THE ISSUE, COULD IMPAIR THE GOVERNMENT'S ABILITY TO WORK OUT AN AGREEMENT ON ECONOMIC ISSUES.

4. AGAINST THIS BACKGROUND, THE GOVERNMENT HAS DECIDED TO CONCENTRATE ITS POLITICAL EFFORTS ON ECONOMIC POLICY AND DROP THE NUCLEAR POWER BILL FOR THE TIME BEING. THOSE PARLIAMENTARIANS FAVORING NUCLEAR ENERGY IN DENMARK DO NOT AT PRESENT HAVE THE STRENGTH TO FORCE THE ENFORCEMENT ACT THROUGH THE FOLKETING AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT'S WILL AND ARE UNLIKELY TO TRY TO DO SO.

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